The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1893 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JULY 22, 1947 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 37, NO. 29

**Write Your Senators And Congressman To Fight Anti-Labor Bills**

## BULLETIN NO. 4

*This is the fourth bulletin explaining the provisions of the Taft-Hartley law. It was prepared by the office of Joseph A. Padway, AFL Chief Counsel.*

**Suggested Clauses for Inclusion in Collective Bargaining Agreements as Some Protection Against Taft-Hartley Act Provisions**

1. To begin with, as already suggested in Bulletin No. 1, it is inadvisable for any union to agree to a no-strike clause. This is because the act makes it very easy for employers to bring suits against unions and because the union may be made responsible for the acts of its agents even though such acts may not have been directly authorized or ratified by the union. Under the broad definition of "agent" a union may very well be made liable for wildcat strikes or other actions beyond its control. In spite of all this, the act denies unions the right to discipline their members by causing their discharge under a union-shop agreement for engaging in wildcat strikes or dual unionism or other disruptive activity.

2. Even in the absence of a no-strike clause, some courts might hold that a collective bargaining agreement automatically prevents strikes not to arbitrate. Therefore,wherever possible, there should be inserted a clause to the effect that nothing in the agreement shall be deemed to prohibit or prevent a strike or other concerted cessation of employment by the employees covered by the agreement.

An alternative suggested clause, if the foregoing is not acceptable, is one providing that nothing in the agreement shall prevent any employee covered thereby from leaving his employment either singly or jointly with other employees.

3. A clause which might be very helpful in view of the fact that boycott-labor agreements are outlawed and unions-security agreements very difficult to obtain is one to the effect that the company recognizes the right of union members to work with non-union members, and any refusal to so work shall not constitute a breach of the agreement.

4. If in any particular case it is impossible to get agreement with a previously existing no-strike clause, then unions who do agree to a no-strike clause should be sure to limit the union's responsibility to strikes which it has actually caused or actively ratified. It should be specifically stated that, unless a union has actually authorized or actually ratified the strike, it is not responsible for acts of managers which may lead to a strike. A concession in this case which it might be well to give, is a clause stating that the foregoing can be agreed upon only on the express condition that the union will undertake to take every reasonable means to induce any employees going out on strike to return to their work.

An alternative suggestion in line with the above is the inclusion of a clause specifying that the union, its officers, agents and shop stewards as agent for the employees covered by the agreement and shall, under no circumstances, be liable for any breach of the agreement. Under such an agreement, unless it can be shown that the union has caused or instigated such strike or other breach.

5. It is very important for all unions to insist on inserting a provision in the contract to the effect that it shall constitute a breach of the agreement for any employee or union member covered therein to refuse to cross a picket line or to refuse to enter upon the premises of any employer, and any refusal does not constitute a violation of sub-section 303(a) of the Taft-Hartley Act.

The above referred to section of the Taft-Hartley Act permits union members to refuse to cross a picket line without being liable for damages, if it has been established by a union engaging in an authorized strike and representing a majority of the employees in the bargaining unit involved. The above provision would permit union members to avail themselves of this portion of the law without jeopardizing their rights under the agreement to refuse to cross picket lines.

6. We now come to a very important suggestion applicable to all agreements, whether they do or do not contain a no-strike clause. This suggestion will operate to limit and cut down the total damages to be paid by the union in any case where the union might be held by a court to have breached the agreement. This is accomplished by including a provision in the contract that, in the event of a breach of the agreement on the part of either party, it will pay liquidated damages in the amount of such a breach. The amount of dollars can be small, say $50 or $100, if the agreement does not cover a large number of employees. Such a provision in the contract is valied a provision for liquidated damages, and in the amount of such damages can be cut down by agreement to a small and reasonable sum, then the union will not risk the possibility of heaving juries assess exorbitant figures for damages that any claimed breach of a contract shall be subject exclusively to the grievance procedure under the contract and to the arbitration with the aid of a neutral, which shall be final and binding. In this way, the union can be sure that the person who fixes the damages will be impartial. It is to be noted that the sum agreed upon found by the arbitrator shall not be in excess of a certain agreed upon minimum sum.

A suggested clause in this connection would be to the effect that any and all disputes, stoppages, and grievances arising out of the foregoing demands or actions resulting therefrom or involved therein shall be settled and determined exclusively by the machinery established by agreement to deal with grievances, including final arbitration.

An alternative suggestion is that any and all disputes, stoppages, suspensions of work, and any and all claims, demands or actions resulting therefrom shall be settled exclusively by the full use of the grievance procedure of free collective bargaining, failing in which the matter shall be submitted to arbitration through a board of mutually agreed upon arbitrators whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties to the dispute. In the United Mine Workers of America contains provisions similar to the foregoing.

8. Since liability for acts of so-called "agents" is made very broad under the act, each contract should state which persons or officials are designated by the union as agents, and the specific authority of each of such agents should be set forth in the contract. Authority of such agent stoppages can be greatly limited, and the contract should specifically set forth which of the local union officials are authorized and required to deal with the company to make commitments for the union, and, in particular, to call or institute a work stoppage. Unless such authority is specifically named persons, no others, shall be considered agents of the union for the purposes specified.

9. The International Union should hesitate to become a party to agreements by local unions. If the International does enter into an agreement by local agreement, that agreement should specifically state that the International is not liable for any breach and assumes no such responsibility or liability under it. If the foregoing provision is inserted, then it is proper for an International union to enter into agreement with and the contract can specifically state that the International approves the agreement as to form but assumes no responsibility under it and will not be considered a party thereto. In this way, International's can exercise their prerogative of preventing local unions from entering into agreements without first submitting them to the International, and still assume no liability under the agreement.

If the International does desire to sign an agreement, and thus incur the possibility that it might be held liable for the acts of a local, then the agreement should state specifically which persons are authorized to act on behalf of the International and that the International is under no duty to the International is liable for any breaches. Thus, the liability of the International, even if it signs the agreement, is very greatly circumscribed. It is not liable for any work stoppages or breaches unless it has actually authorized or ratified the same. In this connection, see paragraph 4 above.

10. Respect to check-off agreements the law now requires that individual authorizations or assignments authorizing the deduction of dues shall be submitted to the employer. Consequently, check-off agreements alone can be supplemented by a clause that the union agrees to furnish to the employer such written authorizations, and the employer agrees to aid, assist and cooperate in obtaining such written assignments from each employee covered by the agreement.

11. Finally, all agreements should contain a proviso requiring both parties to serve a written notice on the other party at least 60 days before any agreement of an intention either to terminate or modify the agreement. This is in insure compliance with the provision of the act requiring such a sixty-day written notice to be given to the other party of a desire to terminate or modify the contract.

## Congressional 'Watchdog' Committee Chosen to Oversee Taft-Hartley Law

Washington, D. C.—Appointments to the Joint Congressional Committee established to keep under constant survey the workings of the Taft-Hartley labor law are completed.

It is no surprise to the labor movement that the panel as constituted is well sprinkled with "labor-baiting" Senators.

The committee elected Senator Joseph H. Ball of Minnesota chairman of the joint group and Representative Fred A. Hartley of New Jersey vice-chairman.

The House group, in addition to Hartley, is composed of Representatives G. W. Landis of Indiana, Clare E. Hoffman of Michigan, Earl R. McCowen of Ohio, John Lesinski of Michigan, Graham A. Barden of North Carolina, and Augustine B. Kelley of Pennsylvania.

Members of the Senate include, besides Ball, Senators Robert A. Taft of Ohio, James E. Murray of Montana, Claude Pepper of Florida, Irving Ives of New York, Allen J. Ellender of Louisiana, and Alexander H. Smith of New Jersey.

Senator Ball announced the committee will work out a program for the study of operations under the Taft-Hartley law. He added that hearings might be held by the committee late this year prior to the next session of Congress.

It is likely that the new committee will consider various proposals to amend the law which have been made recently in Congress. Senator Pepper, on behalf of a group of 15 Senators, introduced a bill to repeal the Taft-Hartley law "lock, stock, and barrel." In the House a companion measure was introduced by Representative John Lesinski of Michigan.

Senators Aiken of Vermont and Hatch of New Mexico, who both voted to override President Truman's veto of the labor law, attacked the provision of the law banning "expenditures" by unions for political purposes. They introduced an amendment to remove the ban calling it an unconstitutional "invasion of the rights of free speech and a free press."

## *R. I. State Health Insurance Provides Sickness Benefits*

Providence, R. I.—Rhode Island's cash sickness compensation fund, the first State-operated health insurance program in the country, entered its fifth year of operation.

The general assembly declared its faith in the value of the program by approving transfer to the fund of approximately $1,000,000 of surplus which had been built up in the State's unemployment compensation fund.

The cash sickness compensation fund is financed entirely by employee medical care, and the law's provisions apply only to workers. Housewives and children, for example, do not receive benefit payments.

Each claimant must see a doctor within five days after the onset of illness and, with few exceptions, at least once a week thereafter until ready to go back to work. No examinations are required for eligibility, but a physician's statement must accompany every application for benefits or continuation of benefits.

For the State's more than 500,000 workers—all who earn at least $100 in a year—the fund provides cash benefits during a maximum of 26 weeks in any 52 consecutive weeks in any case. The sum received by an individual varies, depending on his earnings, from $6.75 to $18 weekly.

The total of cash sickness benefits and unemployment compensation shall not exceed two-thirds of the worker's normal earnings.

Benefits are based on credits built up during the calendar year preceding. Eligibility depends on the number of weeks of credit earned in the previous fiscal year. Duration of payments depends on the length of their term and the total amount of wages earned during the year.

Workers contribute a percentage of all earnings up to $3,600 annually. When the bill was passed, workers were paying 1 per cent of earnings to the unemployment compensation fund. The cash sickness fund was started painlessly simply by shifting 1 per cent in to and back 1 per cent for unemployment compensation.

## Bugniazet Retires As IBEW Secretary; Appointed Director of New Benefit Fund

Washington, D. C.—G. M. Bugniazet, secretary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, resigned from that post after 23 years of service.

President Wm. W. Tracy announced that he had accepted Bugniazet's resignation, "with regret that we pensive and deep." He revealed that Bugniazet had been asked to remain to reconsider, but Bugniazet declined.

"I have served the Brotherhood to the best of my ability for 36½ years, and with my advancing age, as well as the strain of increasing duties, I feel it is to the best interest of all that I relinquish my position. The position requires the energies of a younger man."

Prior to becoming secretary, Bugniazet had been International vice-president for 13½ years. Still earlier, he served for 5 years as business agent of Local 419 in New York City. Now 69, Bugniazet had been a member of I. B. E. W. for 47 years.

Bugniazet also retired as secretary of the Electrical Industries Publishing Association, which administers the Brotherhood's insurance fund.

Bugniazet agreed to take the position of director of research for the International Electrical Benefit Fund, a new insurance program for union workers, through which electrical contractors contribute 2 per cent of their payrolls to the I. B. E. W.'s pension plan.

As Bugniazet's successor in both his former positions, Tracy appointed Ralph Walter, who for over 7 years has been vice-president for the West Coast. Prior to that, President Tracy named Oscar Harlak, a member of the I. B. E. W. staff, as international representative on the West Coast for many years.

### FLORIDA SUGAR WORKERS GET MINIMUM PAY BOOST

Washington, D. C.—The United States Department of Agriculture announced minimum wage rates for sugarcane work by producers in Florida who apply for payments under the Sugar Act of 1937, as amended.

Sugarcane producers have been increased 12 percent over those effective during 1946-47. Minimum hourly wage rates for July 1, 1947-June 30, 1948, follow:

Adult males (unskilled), 55c; adult females (unskilled), 35c; tractor drivers and operators of mechanical harvesting equipment, 85c; workers 14 to 16 years of age, 30c.

### SEASONAL JOBS MAY BOOST EMPLOYMENT OVER 60,000,000

Washington, D. C.—Government experts predicted seasonal openings in construction and other job industries will boost United States employment even beyond the current 60,000,000 mark. The new jobs may open up in August, September and October.

Evan Clagne, Commissioner of Labor Statistics, said previous "soft spots" in construction and other fields have stiffened. The employment picture is very fine, said, adding: "There is no evidence we are going over the hill."

### VETS REINSTATING INSURANCE

Washington, D. C.—The Veterans Administration announced more than 811,000 veterans made application to reinstate their national service life insurance policies since February 1.

The applications cover $5,776,000,000 of insurance which former servicemen had allowed to lapse. About 9,000,000 World War II veterans are eligible to reinstate under the simplified plan which will be in effect until next January 1.

### N. Y. AFL BAKERY WORKERS WIN 15% WAGE INCREASE

New York City.—Employes of seven large baking companies here received wage increases averaging 15 per cent in contract negotiations. Local 50 of the AFL's Bakery and Confectionery Workers signed the contracts with the employes will benefit from the wage increase.

Louis Genuth, secretary of Local 50, said the increases raised rates for bench workers, apprentices, and drivers 92½ and 93½ cents an hour and for the mixers, highest paid, to $1.40 an hour.

### AFL OFFICIALS ARRESTED!

Asheville, N. C.—North Carolina authorities here arrested 6 officers of the AFL Building Trades Council and two contractors for allegedly violating a state law regulating the activities of labor unions. The statute, enacted by the state legislature in 1947 in session, bans the closed shop and checkoff of union dues.

The charge against the labor officials and contractors is that they entered into a closed shop agreement in violation of the law. Bonds of $6,000 each were required pending their appearance in the Asheville City Court.

Local attorneys for the AFL officials, assisted by the office of Joseph A. Padway, AFL Chief Counsel, announced they would carry the case to the state supreme court, if necessary, in an attempt to win a favorable decision.

## Basic Adjustments Are Needed To Aid Economy Says Truman

### *Green Knocks Profiteering, Calls For Production Drive*

*Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green issued the following statement commenting upon President Truman's mid-year economic report to Congress:*

The President's mid-year economic report is extremely serviceable and instructive in analyzing the present economic situation, and indicating the danger spots which must be quickly corrected if full employment is to be maintained. Most crucial of these danger spots is the fact that in 1947 the per capita real income of consumers has continued to decline because wage income has fallen behind rising prices. This imbalance between the buying power of consumers and expanding production, if allowed to persist, is bound to place the future stability of our whole economy in grave jeopardy.

More production brought forth by the maximum effort of labor and management working in harmony, accompanied by lower prices and sustained earnings, is the key to lasting prosperity. On labor's part, the American Federation of Labor has set the all-out production effort. America's peace production drive must be backed by courageous and vigilant public action to reduce the cost of living and to safeguard the integrity of incomes productively earned.

We commend the President's recommendations which urgently call for the enactment of legislation to increase the minimum wage levels and to extend the coverage under the Fair Labor Standards Act, and to enlarge Social Security benefits through the continuance of effective rent control and the enactment of a comprehensive, long-range housing program; and for the adoption of tax and other fiscal policies which would help reduce the public debt as promptly as prosperity and public finances permit.

These short-term recommendations are sound. But they don't go far enough. Vigorous steps are needed to drive from America's politics and economy the reactionary clique which is conspiring with American homes and American workers' jobs is threatening the future stability of our economy. Productive expansion is essential to meet the enlarged needs of full production, and healthy competition restored to break the strangle hold which monopoly has on our economy.

We hope that the Council of Economic Advisers, which is rendering a valuable service in keeping in clear focus the nation's goal of maximum employment, production and purchasing power, will come to grips with these urgent problems in its next report.

## AFL Says Proposed Sugar Act Affords Inadequate Protection for Workers

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor attacked provisions in the proposed Sugar Act of 1948 as giving inadequate protection for consumers and workers in the domestic sugar industry.

The AFL charge was contained in a statement mailed to all Senators. The Senate Finance Committee has set no hearings on the proposed bill.

As reported by the Senate committee, the section requiring producers to pay fair wages in full and on a reasonable rates is modified to such an extent that workers are excluded from all protection granted them under existing legislation upon which the proposed measure is based. The AFL statement said:

"This will help to preserve poverty wages in our beet sugar industry and perpetuate a situation where Mexican labor is imported to compete with American workers and depress wages still further. At present, the highest paid workers suffer the worst health conditions of any in the nation, and few of them receive an income sufficient to provide them with what is generally considered a health and decency standard of living. The power to the problem does not lie in further depressing the working conditions in the sugar beet and cane areas. Tens of thousands of Mexicans enter the United States illegally every year to find work in the beet fields and in other agricultural crops. These serve to further depress conditions of our own domestic laborers."

The bill also weakens vital protection for the consumer provided in the present sugar legislation. The Secretary of Agriculture is directed to institute the quota system in 1948 and to provide "a fair share" of sugar will be consumed at prices which will yield a fair return to efficient farms and which will fairly and equitably maintain and protect the welfare of the domestic sugar industry."

The AFL pointed out that there is no definition of the word "excessive" in the quota law and that the section leaves the provision open to a wide latitude in its interpretation. It was further charged that the wording of the clause relating to the protection of the domestic sugar industry would permit a few large sugar refiners alone to claim unfair treatment even though the domestic sugar industry as a whole was adequately protected. This would result in prices high enough to maintain the inefficient producer at the expense of the consumer.

## 75,000 Housing Units Begun In June; Trend In Home Building On Upswing

Washington, D. C.—Construction began on 75,000 new privately financing units in nonfarm areas during June, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported in its first preliminary estimates.

The total for June was 2,500 more than for May and marked a continuing upward trend for the second of this year. This is especially significant, the report said, because the June month of June frequently during past years has been the beginning of a seasonal decline in home building.

Housing starts during June exceeded the number placed under construction in June last year by more than 10,000. The increase brings to 300,000 the number of new privately financed dwellings started during the first 6 months of 1947, placing this year's activity, 19,000 units ahead of the first half of 1946.

The trend toward greater building activity in suburban areas and in small towns and villages, where land costs are relatively low, was further borne out in evidence. The bureau's figures reveal a more than proportionate increase in apartment house construction. This type of construction offers a better long-term investment opportunity for large investors.

Preliminary June reports showed that building activity in the South Atlantic and West South Central States as contrasted with the Pacific coast and the New England, Middle Atlantic and East North Central areas.

Approximately 62,800 new permanent family dwellings were completed during June, 2,900 above May and 10,000 above June of last year. During the first 6 months of 1947 a total of 262,800 permanent units were completed amounting to 234,200 more than in the same period of 1946.

### PHONE WORKERS' UNION AFFILIATES WITH IBEW

The Commercial Telephone Workers' Union, announced that the 1,928 members of the organization have been taken into membership by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL.

Edwin R. Hackett, president of the Commercial Telephone Workers, department workers of the Illinois Bell Telephone Company, said it is the eighth to affiliate with the IBEW, bringing the total of telephone workers affiliated with the union to 11,000.

### ILO TO MEET IN SAN FRANCISCO

Geneva, Switzerland.—The International Labor Conference decided that the 31st conference of the organization will be held in San Francisco in June, 1948.

### NEW UNION DIRECTORY ISSUED BY LABOR DEPT.

Washington, D. C.—Nearly 200 national and international labor unions are listed in the new Directory of Labor Unions in the United States issued by the Department of Labor.

Eighty-four of the unions are affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. Forty belong to the Congress of Industrial Organizations, and the remainder are "independent" or unaffiliated national unions.

In addition to giving the full title of each union, the directory lists the principal officers and their addresses as well as the officers of statewide AFL and CIO organizations. A separate chapter covering over 50 union research directors completes the directory.

### *Warns Against Props Now Sustaining Present Boom*

Washington, D. C.—President Truman told Congress that basic adjustments are needed to support the nation's business activity now being sustained by "temporary props."

In a special mid-year economic report, the President said that the unprecedented prosperity of our nation must not be a cause for idle self-congratulation.

Mr. Truman named the reconversion demands of business, the abnormal consumer demand now goods, the extensive use of savings and credit, and the excess of exports over imports as the "temporary props now holding up the high levels of production and employment."

"As they weaken, we shall need to take more basic adjustments to complete the transition to a permanently stable and maximum-level peacetime economy," the President declared.

Mr. Truman said that price and income adjustments are also necessary in need of attention."

Pointing to a general improvement in the price level, the President declared that the situation "should not blind us to further need for price adjustments in some cases."

Mr Truman called for wage increases where needed to attain workable relationships between basic salary structure. He reported that the majority of wage increases are more than offset by wage increases during the first half of 1947 because of increases in the cost of living."

"The aggregate power of total consumers' incomes is no higher than at the beginning of the year," the President said.

Mr. Truman urged Congress to enact legislation to raise minimum wages, to broaden the coverage of the Social Security Act, to bring about effective rent control, and to encourage a long-range housing program.

On the whole, the President's report was optimistic. It summed up the first six months of 1947 as follows:

"At midpoint in the year 1947, we have surpassed previous high records of civilian production, and are now producing more goods and services at a rate of 225 billion dollars annually. Month by month we have added to the rate of expension; month by month recession has failed to materialize. Indeed we reached a level of 60 million civilian jobs, which is the goal of a prosperous civilian economy. Our standard of living is exceptionally high. Our purchasing power has thus far been adequate to absorb completely the enormous production of American farms, mines, and factories. Profits generally has attained a record level. The capital formation of business is strong. A healthy slowdown in the inventory accumulation has taken place. Business expenditures for new plant and equipment has increased this year, even above the record level of last year. Management and labor have cooperated in maintaining industrial peace and a wide range of important collective-bargaining agreements have been signed without widespread strikes. Finally, the productivity in the workweek, productivity is on the increase."

The President called upon all groups to make the voluntary adjustments required and upon Congress to enact legislation needed to place the economy in sounder and more firm foundations.

"We must adjust our minds to the fact that we are living in a 225 billion dollar economy; that our free system is maintained by free consumers who must continue to be, the richest and most productive consumer economy ever devised by the minds and hands of men. It is the task of all to keep the functioning of this great productive machine at a level at which it can operate smoothly at capacity, and which will have avoid the economic misfortunes which followed World War I and then culminated in the catastrophe of 1929-32. Today we are wiser, more experienced, and more determined to avoid basically taxes necessary steps in time, we can place the high production and the high employment that we have today on a foundation of enduring prosperity and peace."

### CENTRALIA MINE OPENS; EXPERTS PASS ON SAFETY

Centralia, Ill.—The coal mine in which 111 men perished in an explosion here in March, 1947, reopened today. Some 70 men started work. Full production is expected to be attained in about 30 days.

The Centralia Coal Co. sold the shaft, known as its No. 5 mine, to the Peabody Coal Co. shortly after the explosion.

S. L. Anderson, Southern Illinois divisional superintendent for Peabody, said three government inspectors checked the workings and placed an official stamp of approval on safety conditions.

### $4,500,000 UNDER CONTRACT

Washington, D. C.—The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that during 1946 14,600,000 workers were employed under collective bargaining contracts. This number represents about half of the workers employed in occupations which unions have been organizing.

### MATCH UNION WINS RAISE

Ogdensburg, N. Y.—An AFL union spokesman said workers employed here in the Diamond Match Company's plant accepted the company's offer to hike wages by 10 cents an hour. The pay increase raises the basic hourly rate to 85 cents.

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# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
# SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, JULY 25, 1947 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

## Write Your Senators And Congressman To Fight Anti-Labor Bills

## R. J. Watt, AFL's Representative In International Field, Dies at Sea

Aboard S.S. Saturnia, at Sea—Robert J. Watt, international representative of the American Federation of Labor, died suddenly aboard this ship. He was on his way back to the United States after participating in the recent International Labor Conference at Geneva, Switzerland, which he had attended as the American workers' delegate.

The cause of death was heart disease. Mr. Watt had suffered a heart attack some months ago, but after weeks of rest he had apparently completely recovered and had resumed his duties. He was 59 years old.

Robert J. Watt was one of the best known and most highly respected figures in the American labor movement. He became international representative of the American Federation of Labor in 1936 and in that capacity he attended numerous international labor gatherings in various parts of the world. During the recent war he rendered yeoman service to his country as a labor member of the National War Labor Board. He was a hard worker.

Mr. Watt addressed dozens of AFL international union and State Federation of Labor conventions during the past decade. A foe of every kind of totalitarianism in the American labor movement, he had no patience with apologists for communism and other undemocratic principles. He also appeared frequently before AFL labor groups to explain the objectives of the American Federation of Labor.

In addition, Mr. Watt spoke on the air on innumerable occasions. He often participated in radio debates, in which he made forceful, convincing presentations of the A. F. of L. position on various public issues.

Mr. Watt was noted for his absolute sincerity and his vigorous loyalty. Devotion to the cause of organized labor. He was held in the highest esteem even by those who sometimes disagreed with him because they knew that he said only what he believed to be the truth. He knew no duplex field thoroughly.

Bob Watt, one of twelve children, was born in Scotland on July 16, 1894. While still a child he was compelled to go to work, his father having died. The boy became an apprentice to the painting and paperhanging trade, completing his apprenticeship when he was 16.

In 1912 he migrated to the United States and promptly went to work in a paper mill at Lawrence, Mass. He earned 15 cents an hour. The following year he joined the Painters and Paperhangers Union in Lawrence.

After serving in World War I as an infantryman in the Canadian Army, Mr. Watt became an American citizen in 1919 and was elected president of his local union. He years later he became president of the Lawrence Central Labor Union.

From 1929 to 1937 he was secretary-treasurer of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor. In that capacity he fought for progressive labor and social legislation in the Bay State and represented labor on the Massachusetts Unemployment Compensation Commission and other agencies.

In 1936 he was nominated by the American Federation of Labor as the American workers' delegate to the International Labor Organization. He showed remarkable aptitude for international affairs and won permanent appointment as the A. F. of L.'s international representative.

The sudden death of Mr. Watt leaves a void in the ranks of American Federation of Labor. In a tribute paid to him when news of his death reached Washington, President William Green said: "It will be hard to replace Mr. Watt's great service to the cause of labor and said:

"The American Federation of Labor has suffered an immeasurable loss.

"Robert Watt served the workers of the United States as well as the workers of the world with honor and distinction at all times. He was the International Labor Organization and as a representative of the American Federation of Labor.

"Our tributes were paid by A. F. of L. Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, Secretary of Labor Lewis B. Schwellenbach and many other labor and governmental leaders.

Mrs. Watt, nee Janet Learmonth, and two children, Janet and Robert, survive.

Funeral arrangements have not been completed.

## Social Security Payroll Taxes Now Frozen at 1% Rate Through 1949

Washington, D. C.—House and Senate conferees agreed upon the 1%-per-cent 1% social security payroll taxes on employers and employees until 1950. The house approved the conference report and as definitive goes to press the Senate is expected to follow suit.

The American Federation of Labor fought against the "freeze" measure charging that such action would weaken the fund built up by payment of social security taxes and make any increase in such benefits impossible to attain.

Breaking a deadlock, the conferees had decided to extend the existing rates for old age retirement of 1 per cent each on employer and employee during 1948 and 1949. Thereafter the rates would go up gradually, as follows:

In 1950 and 1951, to 1½ per cent each, in 1952 and thereafter, 2 per cent each.

If this agreement fails to become law and Congress adjourns for the rest of the years, the benefit will come 2½ per cent each on January 1 under the terms of the original Social Security Act. At the same time the Senate and House conferees agreed on liberalization of retirement benefits, but Congress has failed to pass any of the pending plans for improving benefits.

Final passage of today's agreement is held will be of the increase to 3 per cent on employer and employee which would have started in 1949.

Representative Reed, Republican, of New York, one of the conferees, said the increase scheduled to 2 per cent would have been inflationary if it would have contributed to further price increases.

For the last 10 days the Senate had been marking time over a five-year extension of the present rates pending a review during the recess of the entire Social Security Act. The House wanted a more gradual long-range schedule under which the 2 per cent rate would not have been reached until 1957.

The compromise bill continues increased Federal contributions in payments with the states for assistance to needy aged persons, the blind, and the dependent children.

## AFL Convention Calendar

| Date 1947 | Organization | Place |
|---|---|---|
| *Aug. | Nevada State Federation of Labor | Ely |
| Aug. 4 | California State Federation of Labor | San Diego |
| Aug. 5 | Iowa State Federation of Labor | Keokuk |
| Aug. 6 | San Diego Teamsters, Chauffeurs, etc. | San Francisco |
| Aug. 11 | North Carolina State Federation of Labor | Wilmington |
| Aug. 11 | United Garment Workers of America | Oshkosh, Wis. |
| Aug. 16 | International Typographical Union | Cleveland, Ohio |
| Aug. 18 | International Hod Carriers' Union | Chicago, Ill. |
| Aug. 18 | Wisconsin State Federation of Labor | Green Bay |
| Aug. 18 | Utah State Federation of Labor | Provo |
| Sept. 8 | Amal. Ass'n Street & Electric Ry. | Los Angeles |
| Sept. 8 | International Typographical Union | Washington, D. C. |
| Sept. 8 | Nebraska State Federation of Labor | Hastings |
| Sept. 8 | Kentucky State Federation of Labor | Bowling Green |
| Sept. 9 | Connecticut State Federation of Labor | Bridgeport |
| Sept. 11 | United Ass'n Plumbers & Steamfitters | Undecided |
| Sept. 11 | Oklahoma State Federation of Labor | McAlester |
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| Sept. 15 | Ohio State Federation of Labor | Cincinnati |
| Sept. 15 | Int. Bro. Pulp, Sulphite & Paper Mill Wkrs. | Milwaukee |
| Sept. 16 | Minnesota State Federation of Labor | Hibbing |
| Sept. 16 | Indiana State Federation of Labor | Terre Haute |
| Sept. 20 | New Hampshire State Federation of Labor | Concord |
| Sept. 20 | American Wire Weavers' Protective Ass'n | New York City |
| Sept. 22 | Mississippi State Federation of Labor | Jackson |
| Sept. 22 | Illinois State Federation of Labor | Peoria |
| Sept. 25 | West Virginia State Federation of Labor | Charleston |
| Sept. 29 | Metal Trades Department | San Francisco |
| Oct. 1 | Building and Construction Trades Dept. | San Francisco |
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| Oct. 3 | Union Label Trades Department | San Francisco |
| *Oct. | Railway Mail Association | Undecided |
| Oct. 6 | International Asbestos Workers | Undecided |
| Oct. 20 | Commercial Telegraphers Union | Los Angeles |
| Nov. 17 | International Automobile Workers | Milwaukee |
| Dec. 6 | International Bill Posters | Chicago |

* Date not definitely set.

## Church Group Urges Hike In Federal Minimum Wage

New York City.—Rev. Cameron P. Hall, speaking for the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America which represents 25 protestant denominations, urged an increase in the minimum wage to 65 cents an hour with a further increase to 75 cents after two years.

Rev. Hall testified before a House committee in support of the revision of minimum wages legislation. He said:

"The churches do not presume a special competence on their part in the technical details of economic matters, but they do feel a responsibility for the moral aspects of these matters. We believe therefore that the minimum wage issue is a moral issue concerned with justice with a particular reference to those who, because of their lowly condition, stand in particular need for justice from others. The consequence of failure in this point affects adversely the dignity and worth of our wage earners. It threatens the stability of family life. It tends to imperrish the health and usefulness to themselves and to society of the future generation now being raised in today's homes.

"We therefore respectfully urge Congress provide for a significant and adequate increase in the present national minimum wage provisions under the Labor Act."

Rev. Hall referred to an action by the Executive Committee of the Federal Council of Churches in December, 1945, in which, he said, it was resolved that the committee favors "an increase of the minimum wage to 65 cents an hour with 75 cents an hour after two years, in order to provide for our lowest paid workers under private employment an adequate American standard of living." This action was reaffirmed in March, 1946.

"I need hardly elaborate on the fact that since March, 1946, the cost of living has risen sharply, particularly in regard to food, fuel and clothing prices, which form a large proportion of the expenditures of individuals and families within the income brackets who would be most helped by an increase in the national minimum wage level."

## Actors Guild Wins Big Pay Increases

Hollywood, Calif.—More than 8,500 film actors received wage increases and gains in working conditions under a new contract signed by the AFL's Screen Actors Guild and producers in the movie industry.

The gains made by the Screen Guild represent the first important contract changes affecting producer-actor relationships in 10 years. Minor upward adjustments in pay and conditions have been effected.

Negotiation of the contract prior to August 15 was necessary by the necessity of holding an NLRB election in order to continue the union shop under the Taft-Hartley law.

Studios and the actors have compromises regarding working problems affecting both free-lance and contract players as well as all groups in the other proposals which will be included in a new contract effective August 1. Increases in pay are retroactive to July 1, while the new contract players signed before that date.

Minimum wages for players jump from $35 to $55 a day, while free-lancers hired by the week will get $175 instead of $115. Contract actors will receive a minimum of $400 a week minimum for the first six months and 8½ thereafter are now to be split into two classes for inexperienced and experienced actors. Experienced professionals are to be compensated according to age.

Beginners will receive $60 a week for six months, $75 thereafter. No actor shall be required to work overtime for longer than 18 months. Experienced players under 30 will get a minimum of $120 a week, the others $100. There also is also an apply to singers working in pictures. For the second year there will be a wage base is raised from $35 to $55, by the week from $200 to $250.

The contract also has principal benefactors of a provision establishing a work period of 8 hours daily for all actors and a 36-hour rest once a week, but therefore only the low-salaried players were covered by the rest period clause in the previous contract. The latter will now gain, however, by the new agreement by a stipulation that such period shall be measured over a longer period time to the first call for any particular day of the week in the new one. This is especially important where considerable night work is involved.

## 10,000,000 WAR VETERANS EMPLOYED SINCE V-J DAY

Washington, D. C.—About 10,000,000 veterans found employment since the end of the war, according to Perry Faulkner, Veterans Employment Service Chief. Three out of every ten male workers are veterans, Faulkner said.

Continuing his report, Faulkner stated: "Analysis of veterans employment figures discloses segment of veterans has risen steadily month by month since September, 1945. Employment of veterans has shown gains even in months when total employment declined. Veterans have been interested primarily in nonagricultural jobs. The number of jobs available showed 11,000,000 in nonfarm employment as compared to slightly over a million in agriculture.

"In March of 1947 the 12,000,000 World War II veterans were employed in manufacturing industries. At the same month, the durable goods industries employed more than 2,000,000 percent of all veterans engaged in manufacturing. In the automobile industry 38 percent of all employees were World War II veterans."

## SHERMAN NEW IBEW COUNSEL

Washington, D. C.—Louis Sherman, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Labor, resigned to accept the position of general counsel for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Mr. Sherman served with the Labor Department for about eight years following nearly five years' local experience in other government posts.

## JOHN F. M'NAMARA DIES, HEADED FIREMEN, OILERS

Somerville, Mass.—John F. McNamara, international president of the International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers, died while on vacation at Hampton Beach, N. H. He had been union for the last twenty years. He was 68 years old.

A veteran trade unionist, he was well known in labor circles the movement and highly regarded. He had participated in many conventions of labor for many years. From 1939 to 1943 he served as chairman of the Licensing Commission at Somerville, Mass.

President William Green of the American Federation of Labor paid tribute to President McNamara's service to organized labor in a telegram to the International Brotherhood. Said Mr. Green said:

"I have learned with a feeling of sorrow of the death of Brother McNamara. His death leaves your brotherhood has lost a most capable and highly qualified representative. In addition, our great movement has suffered a very decided loss as a result of his passing."

## Labor Peace Seen Stifled by Law

Washington, D. C.—"Labor-management relations problems cannot be handled by law, strict or regulation," Edgar A. Warren, former Conciliation Service Director, declared. He spoke before a Labor Relations Forum conducted by the Catholic University of America.

Speaking on the subject "Conciliation—An Aid to Peaceful Industrial Relations," Mr. Warren said what is needed in labor relations "is the creation of an atmosphere of mutual confidence, understanding, and approach to an atmosphere of animosity."

"Anti-labor legislative and punitive measures create bitterness and remove the possibility of the parties ever working together toward mutual objectives. Too often legislation is passed in haste, ill intended, create suspicion. I believe firmly that collective bargaining and labor are interested in obtaining greater productivity, greater job security, which also means economic stability and a higher standard of living."

Mr. Warren insisted that peaceful settlements were possible. He pointed out that "the complete arbitration of difficulties of the postwar period, by peaceful negotiations were made for a more active participation of labor and management representations."

This is significant, however," he said, "that both management and labor in the most successful arbitration should not replace voluntary procedure for handling their differences."

## BAN ON RED SYMPATHIZERS WEIGHED AT CLERKS' MEET

San Francisco.—A resolution under which members of the Communist party would be barred from membership was introduced at the convention of the Clerks Industrial National Association.

The resolution appeared to win approval by an overwhelming vote when it came up for action in the early session, but also authorizes the expulsion after trial of any member found either to support or sympathize with Communists, if any were present, to leave the hall. He expressed doubt that any Communists were present and added:

"But if there are, they might as well take their departure now."

# Congress Slashes FPHA Funds; Ruins Local Low Rent Projects

## AFL's Railway System Federations Negotiate Apprenticeship Plans

Washington, D. C.—System federations of the AFL's Railway Employes' Department participated in the development of revitalized and expanded joint apprenticeship programs adopted by three major railway systems.

The Union Pacific, New York Central, and Western Pacific railroads evolved the programs for the training of skilled maintenance men in cooperation with the unions with which they have bargaining agreements.

The Labor-Management Service, U. S. Department of Labor, gave technical assistance in setting up the new joint apprenticeship programs. These programs have been approved by the federal committee on apprenticeship which is composed of an equal number of representatives of employers and unions, and is the policy making body for the Apprentice-Training Service.

The Union Pacific and the New York Central pioneered in the undertaking to improve and expand apprentice training by the railroads as a means of solving this situation and to build and maintain the skilled work force of the railroads.

The following system federations, Railway Employes' Department, American Federation of Labor, are participating in the joint apprenticeship programs: New York Central, Systems No. 54 and 102; Union Pacific, System No. 105, and Western Pacific, System No. 117.

The apprenticeship programs provide for the training of machinists, electricians, sheet metal workers, carmen, painters, boiler makers, blacksmiths, steamfitters, pattern makers, molders and upholsterers.

General committees on apprenticeship, representative of the craft, and number of representatives of the labor System Federation, and the management, in each case have been organized to act as advisory bodies to local joint apprenticeship committees, also regularly representative of the railroads and unions.

During the war there was a serious slump in apprentice training, as most apprentices and potential apprentices entered the armed forces. The new and expanded apprenticeship programs are intended to remedy this situation and to build and maintain the skilled work force of the railroads.

## Proposed Minimum Wage Hike In N. Y. To Affect 300,000 In Three Industries

Albany, N. Y.—Higher minimum wage levels affecting nearly 300,000 workers in New York have been recommended for three industries by minimum wage boards appointed to study conditions.

Recommendations involved are in the cleaning and dyeing, confectionery, and hotel and restaurant industries.

The wage boards were named by State Industrial Commissioner Edward Corsi. Each comprised of nine members as established by law. Three representatives were from the labor, three from employers in the particular industry, and three persons represented the public. The boards conducted public hearings in addition to studying all available data on conditions in the industries. Final public hearings will be held prior to adoption of the boards' recommendations.

The cleaning and dyeing board's proposal, affecting 16,500 workers, included a 67½-cent hourly minimum and a weekly minimum of $17.25 for full-time employes working up to 44 hours a week, plus time and a half rate of 96 cents was recommended for overtime. The board also set up a split-shift work in any day.

The confectionery board's proposals included a weekly minimum of $23 for 40 hours work, with time and half rate of time-and-a-half. For employers using no more than eight workers, an hourly minimum of 62½ cents was recommended. For those workers in New York who have been receiving less than 54 hours the 67½-cent rate was proposed.

The hotel and restaurant board's proposals provide for 22 cents an hour for service workers in this city, 21 cents in communities of more than 10,000 population and 20 cents in towns under 10,000. Service workers are those who receive tips.

Non-tipping workers such as cooks and kitchen help, an additional 20 cents an hour over the service rates in each community is proposed. Where meals are not furnished (one meal for less than five hours of work and two meals for five hours or more) an extra 10 cents an hour is proposed over the base rates.

The hotel recommendations are for 30 cents an hour for service workers in year-round hotels in cities over 100,000 population, 28 cents in communities from 25,000 to 100,000, and 25 cents in towns under 25,000. Rates for non-service workers are $1 more. Seasonal hotels in cities over 100,000, 49 cents from 25,000 to 100,000, and 45 cents in communities of under 25,000.

Rates for resident workers are $16.35 a week, $15.30 and $14.25 graduated down according to the population. In each case without meals or lodging they receive $5.40 a week additional.

## Farm Income Rises 30% Over Year Ago

Washington, D. C.—Farmers received $1,000,000 dollars more farm marketings during the first 6 months of 1947, about 30 percent more than in 1946, according to reports of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Receipts from the sale of farm products rose to about 7.9 billion dollars, nearly 40 percent more than a year ago. Receipts from crop sales and marketings accounted for a 60 percent gain in receipts from meat animals during the first half of 1947.

Cash receipts from dairy products increased about 30 percent over the year, although the gain is reduced to 10 percent when dairy production payments are included in last year's receipts. Income from poultry and eggs in 1947 exceeded last year by 16 percent; sales were down but prices of all poultry products except chicken keys were above last year.

Receipts from crops in the first six months were about 3.3 billion dollars, 30 percent more than in 1946. The largest gains were in grains and tobacco.

## APPOINTED DELEGATES TO BRITISH UNION CONGRESS

Washington, D. C.—George J. Richardson, Secretary-Treasurer of the International Association of Bridge, Fighters, and Arnold S. Zander, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, were appointed as Fraternal Delegates from the American Federation of Labor to the British Trades Union Congress. The British labor group will convene in Southport, England.

Another fire fighter, Donald Duncan, president of Local No. 118, Toronto, Canada, will serve as Fraternal Delegate from the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

## Floods In West Cost $900,000,000

Washington, D. C.—Workers, already plagued by rising food prices which have sent the cost of living up 30 per cent since 1939, suffered comfort from reports of damage caused by the recent floods in the midwest. Losses and crop damages will serve to further boost the consumer price-prices.

The Soil Conservation Service reported flood and storm damage in Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois in May and June exceeded $900,000,000.

Upland soil loss and crop damage alone during the first half of 1947.

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## ILO CALLS CONFERENCE OF LABOR STATISTICIANS

Montreal, Canada.—The International Labor Organization has called a conference of more than 70 statisticians from 30 different countries to consider means of coordinating labor statistics throughout the world.

The chief purpose of the conference is to formulate proposals for the standardization of national statistics concerning industrial accidents, cost of living, unemployment and employment.

Robert J. Watt, AFL International Representative, is a delegate to the conference named by the ILO Governing Body and will represent labor.

## Proposed Administrative Funds Slashed by Congress

Washington, D. C.—The powerful real estate lobby, accused by President Truman of "conducting a 'vicious disregard of the public welfare,'" won another victory in its fight against public, low-rent housing.

The Senate passed the Government Corporations Appropriations Act adopting House amendments which reduce to shambles the Federal Public Housing Authority, which agency was singled out by the real estate lobby as a special target.

Boris Shishkin, secretary of the AFL Housing Committee, attacked the measure as "legislation in the guise of an appropriation bill" which attempts to discredit the FPHA and undermine the low-cost program supported by labor. He said:

"Annual appropriations by the Federal Government to local housing authorities were authorized by the United States Housing Act of 1937 to enable these local bodies to maintain the low-rent character of their projects. In 1938, responding, it took $900 to meet annual contributions for the coming year. Despite the 1937 blessing of the Congress, bad faith of the United States is solemnly pledged in the payment of annual contributions contracted for pursuant to the Act, the House Committee did not hesitate to commit a breach of faith by appropriating only $4,000,000 for this purpose.

"Not content with this drastically-cut appropriation will be not only to make impossible the future authorities to serve the lowest income groups in more than 250 cities but to subject the Federal Government to possible law suits by local housing authorities the interests of the holders of local authority bonds.

"The administrative appropriations were also slashed severely and the limitations placed on the present housing programs was further threatened by unprecedented new limitations. Because the low-rent housing program requires personnel of a highly technical and supervisory character, reduction in the number of personnel will cripple FPHA operations. The continued attack on public housing in the appropriations bill will make sound and efficient operation impossible. The opponents of the program have succeeded, in this bill serve to discredit the FPHA."

Another provision written into the bill will bring to a halt all building at the local level. "FPHA has been forbidden to contract with their municipalities up to 10 percent of their annual quota for new housing. Experience showed that the cost of serving families furnished by cities to the residents of low-rent projects should be reimbursed by the local authorities. In this measure Congress prohibited any such payments unless the original contract specified such a practice. This means that in the many hundreds of cities in which low-rent projects are located will receive no assistance whatsoever.

Harry C. Bates, Chairman of the AFL Housing Committee, said of the action taken by Congress:

"Under the circumstances, AFL affiliates must have their forces fully mobilized to push the Frazell lost in housing legislation as the result of factories secured in the Congress. In this Congress Congress prohibited any such payments unless the original contract specified such a practice. This means that in the many hundreds of cities in which low-rent projects are located will receive no assistance whatsoever.

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"Under the circumstances, AFL affiliates must have their forces fully mobilized to push the Frazell lost in housing legislation as the result of factories secured in the Congress. In this Congress and to make certain that there will be a comprehensive, long-range housing program adequate to meet the housing needs of our nation."

## Submits to Organzed Real Estate Lobby's Pressure Tactics.

## UNION EXECUTIVE BOARD SUMMONED BY WASHBURN

Milwaukee, Wis.—Lester Washburn, president of the AFL's United Paper Workers, called a meeting of the union's executive board to discuss the effects of operation under the Taft-Hartley law.

"Under the new act," Washburn said, "the union is denied the right to discipline its own members even though the law holds it responsible for the acts of those same members. It is therefore impossible for the union to accept responsibility for individual actions over which they legally have no control."

For this reason, President Washburn declared, the union will not petition and amendments to the union's constitution and by-laws will be declared unconstitutional for consideration by the convention of the AFL's United Paper Workers.

## REVISED CHILD LABOR LAW TAKES EFFECT IN ILLINOIS

Chicago, Ill.—A revised child-labor law now effective in Illinois forbids employment of boys and girls under 16 years of age in factories, bowling alleys and poolrooms.

The new law also forbids children under 16 working at skating rinks, exhibition parks or other places of amusement, in garages and filling stations, as bellboys, in connection with power-driven machinery and in other hazardous occupations.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the labor policy, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
# SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, JULY 25, 1947 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

**Write Your Senators And Congressman To Fight Anti-Labor Bills**

## R. J. Watt, AFL's Representative In International Field, Dies at Sea

Aboard S.S. Saturnia, at Sea—Robert J. Watt, International representative of the American Federation of Labor, died suddenly aboard this ship. He was on his way back to the United States after participating in the recent International Labor Conference at Geneva, Switzerland, which he had attended as the American workers' delegate.

The cause of death was heart disease. Mr. Watt had suffered a heart attack some months ago, but after two weeks of rest he had appeared completely recovered and had resumed his duties. He was 53 years old.

Robert J. Watt was one of the best known and most highly respected figures in the American labor movement. He became international representative of the American Federation of Labor in 1936 and in that capacity he attended numerous international labor gatherings in various parts of the world. During the recent war, he rendered yeoman service to his country as a labor member of the National War Labor Board. He was a hard worker.

Mr. Watt addressed dozens of AFL international unions and State Federation of Labor conventions during the past decade. A foe of every kind of totalitarianism, he always spoke up for democracy and had no patience with apologists for communistic or other undemocratic principles. He also appeared frequently before non-labor groups to explain the objectives of the American Federation of Labor.

In addition, Mr. Watt spoke on the air on innumerable occasions. He often participated in radio debates, in which he made forceful, sound presentations of the A. F. of L. position on various public issues.

Mr. Watt was noted for his absolute sincerity and his utterly selfless devotion to the cause of organized labor. He was held in the highest esteem even by those who sometimes disagreed with him because they knew that he said only what he believed to be the truth. He knew his complex field thoroughly.

Bob Watt, one of twelve children, was born in Scotland on July 16, 1894. While still a child he came to Canada to go to work, his father having died. There he became an apprentice to a painting and paperhanging trade, completing his apprenticeship when he was 18.

In 1912 he migrated to the United States and promptly went to work in a paper mill at Lawrence, Mass. He earned 15 cents an hour. The following year he joined the Painters and Paperhangers Union in Lawrence.

After serving in World War I as an infantryman in the Canadian Army, Mr. Watt became an American citizen in 1919 and was elected president of his local union. Six years later he became president of the Lawrence Central Labor Union.

From 1923 to 1927 he was secretary-treasurer of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor. In that position he fought for progressive labor and social legislation in the Bay State and represented labor on the Massachusetts Unemployment Compensation Commission and other agencies.

In 1936 he was nominated by the American Federation of Labor as the international labor representative to the International Labor Organization. He showed immediate aptitude for international labor affairs and won personal recognition as an able A. F. of L.'s international representative.

The sudden death of Mr. Watt comes as a heavy loss to the American Federation of Labor. The private issued when news of his passing reached Washington, President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer Mr. Watt's great service to the cause of labor and to his country.

The American Federation of Labor has lost a valuable international representative.

"Robert Watt served the workers of the United States as well as the workers of the world in regard and esteem by the officers and members of the American Federation of Labor."

Other tributes were paid by A. F. of L. Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, Secretary of Labor Lewis B. Schwellenbach and many other labor and government leaders.

Mrs. Watt, nee Janet Learmonth, survives. Two children, Janet and Robert, survive.

Funeral arrangements have not been completed.

## Social Security Payroll Taxes Now Frozen at 1% Rate Through 1949

Washington, D. C.—House and Senate conferees agreed to freeze the present 1% social security payroll taxes on employers and employees until 1950. The house approved the conference report and as this edition goes to press the Senate is expected to follow suit.

The American Federation of Labor fought against the "freeze" proposal, charging that such action would weaken the fund built up by payment of social security benefits and make any increase in such benefits impossible to attain.

Breaking a deadlock, the conferees had decided to extend the existing rates for old age retirement of 1 per cent each on employer and employee during 1948 and 1949. Thereafter the rates would go to 1½ percentially, as follows:

In 1950 and 1951, to 1½ per cent each, in 1952 and thereafter, 2 per cent each.

If this agreement fails to become law and Congress adjourns at the end of the year, the rates would become 2 per cent each on January 1 under the terms of the original law.

Social Security Act. At the same time, there would be a study and reevaluation of retirement benefits, which have failed to keep pace with those of the pending plans for improving the system.

Final passage of today's agreement bill would cut off the increase to 3 per cent on employer and employee which would have started in 1949.

Representative Reed, Republican, of New York, one of the conferees, said that the threatened increase to 3 per cent would have been inflationary and would have contributed to further price increases.

He said the 10 days the Senate had been advocating merely a one-year extension of the present rates pending a review during the recess of the entire Social Security Act. The House wanted a more gradual increase and it was decided that while the 2 per cent rate would not have been reached until 1952.

The compromise bill continues increases in old-age assistance grants in participation with the states, for benefits to needy aged persons, the blind, and the dependent children.

## AFL Convention Calendar

| Date 1947 | Organization | Place |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 4 | Nevada State Federation of Labor | Ely |
| Aug. 4 | California State Federation of Labor | San Diego |
| Aug. 5 | Idaho State Federation of Labor | Kellogg |
| Aug. 8 | Int. Bro. Teamsters, Chauffeurs, etc. | San Francisco |
| Aug. 11 | North Carolina State Federation of Labor | Wilmington |
| Aug. 11 | United Garment Workers of America | Oshkosh, Wis. |
| Aug. 11 | International Typographical Union | Cleveland, Ohio |
| Aug. 18 | International Photo Engravers Union | Chicago, Ill. |
| Aug. 18 | Wisconsin State Fed'n of Labor | Green Bay |
| Aug. 18 | Utah State Federation of Labor | Provo |
| Sept. 8 | Amal. Ass'n Street & Electric Ry. | Los Angeles |
| Sept. 8 | International Chemical Workers | Washington, D. C. |
| Sept. 8 | Nebraska State Federation of Labor | Hastings |
| Sept. 8 | Kentucky State Federation of Labor | Bowling Green |
| Sept. 9 | Connecticut State Federation of Labor | Undecided |
| Sept. 9 | United Ass'n Plumbers & Steamfitters | Undecided |
| Sept. 11 | Oklahoma State Federation of Labor | McAlester |
| Sept. 11 | Arizona State Federation of Labor | Tucson |
| Sept. 12 | Int. Union Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers | Los Angeles |
| Sept. 12 | Ohio State Federation of Labor | Cincinnati |
| Sept. 16 | Int. Bro. Pulp, Sulphite & Paper Mill Wks. | Milwaukee |
| Sept. 16 | Minnesota State Federation of Labor | Duluth |
| Sept. 16 | Indiana State Federation of Labor | Terre Haute |
| Sept. 22 | New Hampshire State Federation of Labor | Concord |
| Sept. 22 | American Wire Weavers Protective Ass'n | New York City |
| Sept. 22 | Mississippi State Federation of Labor | Jackson |
| Sept. 22 | Illinois State Federation of Labor | Peoria |
| Sept. 22 | West Virginia State Federation of Labor | Charleston |
| Sept. 22 | Metal Trades Department | San Francisco |
| Oct. 1 | Building and Construction Trades Dept. | San Francisco |
| Oct. 2 | New Mexico State Federation of Labor | Carlsbad |
| Oct. 9 | Union Label Trades Department | San Francisco |
| *Oct. | Railway Mail Association | Jacksonville, Fla. |
| Oct. 6 | International Asbestos Workers | Undecided |
| Oct. 20 | Commercial Telegraphers Union | Los Angeles |
| Nov. 17 | International Automobile Workers | Milwaukee |
| Dec. 6 | International Bill Posters | Chicago |

*Date not definitely set.

## Church Group Urges Hike In Federal Minimum Wage

New York City.—Rev. Cameron P. Hall, speaking for the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America which represents 25 protestant denominations, urged an increase in the minimum wage to 65 cents an hour with a further increase to 75 cents after his session.

Rev. Hall testified before a House committee in support of the revision of minimum wage legislation. He said:

"The churches do not presume a special competence on their part in the technical details of economic matters, but they do feel a responsibility for the moral aspects of these matters. We believe therefore that the minimum wage issue is a moral one concerned with policy, with a particular reference to those who, because of their lowly condition, stand in particular need for justice from others. The consequence of failure at this point affects adversely the children and wives of low wage earners. It has particularly serious effects in relation to impoverish the health and usefulness to themselves and to society of the future generation now being raised in today's homes.

"We therefore respectfully urge that the present wage levels provide for a significant and adequate increase in the present national minimum wage provisions under the Fair Labor Act.

Rev. Hall referred to an action by the Executive Committee of the Federal Council of Churches taken in November, 1946, at which time it was resolved that the committee favors "an increase in the minimum wage to 65 cents an hour with a further increase to 75 cents an hour in order to provide for our lowest paid workers under present conditions an adequate American standard of living." This action was reaffirmed in March, 1946.

"I need hardly elaborate on the fact that since March, 1946, the cost of living has risen particularly in the case of food and clothing prices, which form a large proportion of the expenditures of individuals and families within the low income brackets who would be most helped by an increase in the national minimum wage level."

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The pact signed by the Screen Actors Guild represents the first important contract change affecting producer-actor relationships in 10 years. Actors in regard and salaries by the officers and members of the American Federation of Labor."

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A veteran trade unionist, he had been active in organizing the movement and highly regarded. He had participated in all important conventions of labor for many years. In 1940 Mr. McNamara served as chairman of the Labor Committee at the Democratic Convention.

President William Green of the American Federation of Labor paid tribute to President McNamara's service to organized labor in a telegram to the International Union. In his message Mr. Green said:

"I have learned with a feeling of sorrow of the death of Brother McNamara. His passing means your brotherhood has lost a most capable and highly qualified representative. In addition, our general movement will sustain a very decided loss as a result of his passing."

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Mr. Warren said that punitive measures create bitterness and resentment. They reflect on employer and management working together to attain their objectives. Too often regulations, no matter how well intended, create suspicion. I believe firmly that both management and labor are interested in obtaining greater peace and security, which also means economic stability and an improved standard of living."

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This is significant, however," he said, "that both management and labor agreed that compulsory arbitration should not replace voluntary procedures for handling their differences."

## BAN ON RED SYMPATHIZERS WEIGHED AT CLERKS' MEET

San Francisco.—A resolution under which members of the Communist party would be barred from membership was introduced at the convention of the Retail Clerks International Association.

The resolution, reported to be unequivocal by an overwhelming vote when it was referred to the floor by the delegates, also would authorize the expulsion after trial of any member friendly to Communists or Communism.

James A. Suffridge, secretary-treasurer of the Retail Clerks, received an ovation when, in the course of his speech opening the convention, he included Communists, if any were present, to leave the hall. He expressed doubt that any Communists were present and added:

"But if there are, they might as well take their departure now."

## 10,000,000 WAR VETERANS EMPLOYED SINCE V-J DAY

Washington, D. C.—About 10,000,000 veterans found employment since the end of the war, according to Perry Faulkner, veterans Employment Service Chief. Three out of every four male workers are veterans, Faulkner said.

Continuing his report, Faulkner stated: "Analysis of veterans employment figures discloses segments of veterans' has risen steadily month by month since September, 1945. Employment of veterans has shown gains even in months when total employment declined. Veterans have been interested primarily in agricultural jobs. The latest figures available show almost 11,000,000 in nonfarm employment as compared to slightly over a million in agriculture.

"In March of 1940 the total of World War II veterans were employed in manufacturing industries. In the same month, the durable goods industries employed better than 60 per cent of all veterans engaged in manufacturing. In the nondurable industry 38 percent of all employees were World War II veterans."

## SHERMAN NEW IBEW COUNSEL

Washington, D. C.—Louis Sherman, Special Assistant in the Secretary of Labor, resigned to accept the position of general counsel for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Mr. Sherman served with the Labor Department for about eight years following nearly five years' legal experience in other government posts.

# Congress Slashes FPHA Funds; Ruins Local Low Rent Projects

## AFL's Railway System Federations Negotiate Apprenticeship Plans

Washington, D. C.—System federations of the AFL's Railway Employes' Department participated in the development of revitalized and expanded joint apprenticeship programs adopted by three major railway systems.

The Union Pacific, New York Central, and Western Pacific railroads evolved the programs for the training of skilled maintenance men in cooperation with the unions with which they have bargaining agreements.

The Apprentice-Training Service, U. S. Department of Labor, gave technical assistance in setting up the new joint apprenticeship programs. Through its railroads have been established in the federal committee on apprenticeship which is composed of an equal number of representatives of employers and unions, and is the policy making body for the Apprentice-Training Service.

The Union Pacific and the New York Central pioneered in the undertaking to improve and expand apprentice training by the railroads and to have railroad apprenticeship programs registered with the federal committee.

The following system federations, Railway Employes' Department, American Federation of Labor, are participating in the three apprenticeship programs: New York Central, Systems No. 54 and 103; Union Pacific, System No. 105, and Western Pacific, System No. 117.

The apprenticeship programs provide for the training of machinists, electricians, sheet metal workers, carmen, painters, boiler makers, blacksmiths, steamfitters, pattern makers, molders and upholsterers.

General committees on apprenticeship, composed of an equal number of representatives of the labor System Federation, and the managements of the railroads have been established to act as advisory bodies to local joint apprenticeship committees on equal-by representative of the railroads and the unions.

During the war there was a serious threat to apprenticeship because many apprentices and potential apprentices entered the armed forces. The new and expanded apprenticeship programs are designed to help overcome this situation and to build and maintain the skilled work force of the railroads.

## Proposed Minimum Wage Hike In N. Y. To Affect 300,000 In Three Industries

Albany, N. Y.—Higher minimum wage levels affecting nearly 300,000 workers in New York have been recommended for three industries by the state's minimum wage appointed study conditions.

Occupations involved are those in the cleaning and dyeing, confectionery, and hotel and restaurant industries.

Miss Frieda S. Miller, newly named State Industrial Commissioner Edward Corsi. Each was comprised of nine members as established by law. Three representatives were from labor, three from employers in the particular industry, and three persons represented the public. The boards conducted public hearings in addition to studying all available data on conditions in the industries. Final public hearings will be held prior to the issuance of the wage recommendations.

The cleaning and dyeing board's proposal, affecting 16,500 workers, included a 87½-cent hourly minimum and a 40-hour week. Time and a half full-time employees working up to and including 48 hours a week. A hourly rate of 86 cents was recommended for part-time workers and for those in split-shift work in any day.

The confectionery board's proposals included a weekly minimum of $23 for a 40-hour week in each case with meals or time-and-a-half. For employees using no more than eight workers, an hourly minimum of 62½ cents was recommended. For those working from 24 hours to 87½-cent rate was proposed.

The restaurant board's proposals provide for $2 cents an hour for service workers in this city, 31 cents in communities of more than 100,000 population, and 20 cents in places under 100,000. Tips are counted as those who receive tips.

For lunch-service workers such as cooks and kitchen help, an additional 20 cents an hour over the service rates in each community is proposed. Where meals are not furnished (one meal for less than five hours of work and two meals for five hours or more) an extra 10 cents an hour is provided over the base rates.

The hotel recommendations are for 30 cents an hour in communities with in year-round hotels in cities over 100,000 population, 28 cents in communities from 25,000 to 100,000, 25 cents in localities under 25,000. Rates for room-service workers are 5 cents an hour in communities over 100,000, 42 cents from 25,000 to 100,000, and 46 cents in communities of less than 25,000.

Rates for resident workers are $16.25 a week. Service food rates are graduated down according to the population of each case with meals and/or lodging they receive $5.40 a week additional.

## Farm Income Rises 30% Over Year Ago

Washington, D. C.—Farmers received 7.9 billion dollars during the first 6 months of 1947, about 30 percent more than in the same period last year, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Receipts from live stock and products accounted for 4.9 billion dollars, nearly 40 percent more than a year ago. Higher prices and increased marketings accounted for a 40 percent gain in receipts from meat animals during the first half of 1947.

Cash receipts from dairy products increased about 36 percent, over last year, although this gain is reduced to 10 percent when dairy production payments are included in last year's receipts. Income from poultry and eggs in 1947 exceeded last year by 10 percent; sales were down but prices of all poultry products except turkeys were above last year.

Receipts from crops in the first six months were about 3.8 billion dollars, 20 percent greater than in 1946. The largest gains were in grains and tobacco.

## APPOINTED DELEGATES TO BRITISH UNION CONGRESS

Washington, D. C.—George J. Richardson, Secretary-Treasurer of the Building Service Association of AFL Fighters, and Arnold S. Zander, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes, were appointed as Fraternal Delegates from the American Federation of Labor to the British Trades Union Congress. The British labor group will convene in Southport, England.

Another fire fighter, Donald Dunlap, president of Local No. 119, Toronto, Canada, will serve as Fraternal Delegate from the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

## Floods In West Cost $900,000,000

Washington, D. C.—Workers, already employed by relief projects which have sent the cost of living up record in recent weeks, are to be spared from reports of damage caused by flood waters in the west. The flood loss and crop damage will serve to increase the upward pressure on food prices.

The Soil Conservation Service reported flood and storm damage to Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois in May and June totaled $900,000,000.

Upland soil loss and crop damage alone cost about $683,000,000. Hugh H. Musser, regional conservator for the Missouri Basin, said that the flood plains of the larger streams was about $217,000,000. The remainder of the estimate was $500,000,000.

Soil loss by sheet erosion, excisive of major tributary bottoms and losses in the three states, amounted to more than 401,000,000 tons, and 450,000 tons were removed by gully, roadside and stream-bank erosion.

About 60,000 acres of crop and pasture land were covered deeply by fine crop or pasture use by gully erosion and 12,000 acres adjacent to streams were wiped out by streambed cutting.

## ILO CALLS CONFERENCE OF LABOR STATISTICIANS

Montreal, Canada.—The International Labor Organization announced a conference of more than 75 statisticians from 30 countries to consider means of coordinating labor statistics throughout the world.

The chief purpose of the conference is to formulate proposals for the standardization of national statistics covering industrial accidents, cost of living, unemployment and employment.

Robert J. Watt, AFL International Representative, is included in a delegation named by the ILO Governing Body and will represent labor.

## Federal Housing Chief Urges Action on Slum Clearance

Washington, D. C.—Raymond M. Foley, Federal Housing Administrator, urged Congress to act on slum clearance legislation before it adjourns.

Mr. Foley said that the housing shortage is "the most serious problem we have in the country today."

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## Submits to Organzed Real Estate Lobby's Pressure Tactics.

Washington, D. C.—The powerful real estate lobby, accused by President Truman of engaging a "ruthless disregard of the public welfare," won another victory in its fight against low rent housing.

The Senate passed the Government Corporations Appropriations Act adopting House amendments which provide to abandon the Federal Public Housing Authority, which agency was singled out by the real estate lobby as a special target.

Boris Shishkin, secretary of the AFL Housing Committee, attacked the measure as "legislation in the interest of the speculator" which attempts to discredit theFPHA and undermine the low-rent program supported by labor. He said:

"Annual contributions by the Federal Government to local housing authorities were authorized by the United States Housing Act of 1937 to enable these local bodies to maintain the low-rent character of their projects. FPHA requested $7,200,000 as the annual contribution for the coming year. Despite the 1937 Housing Act which, under the facts of the United States is solemnly binding, the payment of all annual contributions contracted for pursuant to the Act of 1937 is denied. Congress did not hesitate to commit a breach of faith by appropriating only $4,000,000 for this purpose.

"The effect of this drastically-cut appropriation is to make it impossible for local authorities to maintain their low-rent projects in their communities, and to subject the bondholders to unwarranted law suits, but also to jeopardize the interests of the holders of their authority bonds.

"The administrative appropriations were also slashed severely and the administration of the low-rent housing programs was further threatened by unprecedented personnel limitations. Because the low-rent housing program requires personnel of a highly technical and supervisory character, reduction in the number of personnel will seriously cripple FPHA operations. The combined attack on public housing in the appropriation bill will make sound and efficient operation impossible. The opponents of the program hope, of course, that this will serve to furnish the excuse."

Another provision written into the bill will block the FPHA from housing at the local level. FPHA has authorized local authorities to pay their municipalities up to 10 percent of shelter rent in lieu of taxes. Experience showed that the cost of services furnished by the cities to the residents of low-rent projects should be compensated for in some fashion. The bill prohibits payments under any such payments unless the original contracts provide for such practice. This means that over one-third of the cities in which projects already located will receive no payments whatsoever.

Harry C. Bates, Chairman of the AFL Housing Committee said of the action taken by Congress:

"When Congress convenes, AFL affiliates must have their forces fully mobilized to regain the ground lost during this session and to win a result of victories scored by special interests in the present session. We must obtain the enactment of the comprehensive housing legislation program embodied in the Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill which the AFL has sought to enact."

## UNION EXECUTIVE BOARD SUMMONED BY WASHBURN

Milwaukee, Wis.—Lester Washburn, president of the AFL's United Wall Paper Crafts, has called a meeting of the union's executive board to discuss ways of operation under the Taft-Hartley law.

"Under the new act," Washburn said, "the union is denied the right to discipline its own members even though the law is responsible for the acts of those same members. It is therefore necessary for the unions to accept responsibility for individual actions over which they legally have no control."

For this reason, President Washburn declared, new methods of operation and amendments to the union's constitution and by-laws will be devised and recommended for consideration by the convention of the AFL United Wall Paper Crafts.

## REVISED CHILD LABOR LAW TAKES EFFECT IN ILLINOIS

Chicago, Ill.—A revised child-labor law now effective in Illinois forbids employment of boys and girls under 16 years of age in taverns, bowling alleys and Automatic Vendors.

The new law also forbids children under 16 working at skating rinks, exhibition parks or other places of amusement, in garages and filling stations, as bellboys, in connection with power-driven machinery and in other hazardous occupations.